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Forward ... from the Sea

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NAR Brunswick Hosts SECNAV, Congressional Visit

By Journalist 1st Class Jeremy Allen, NAR Brunswick Public Affairs

BRUNSWICK, Maine (NNS) — Secretary of the Navy Gordon England and Sen. Susan R. Collins of Maine, visited Naval Air Reserve Brunswick on their way to the christening of USS *Mason* (DDG 87) at nearby Bath Iron Works Shipyard.

During their visit, England and Collins held a roundtable discussion with Reserve commanding officers from throughout New England.

As the 72nd secretary of the Navy, England got his first glimpse of Navy Reservists and reinforced his top area of emphasis.

"I just want to say thank you for inviting me and I sincerely appreciate the hard working men and women of the Naval Air Reserve," England said. "I am very impressed with your professionalism and dedication to your country and community. I realize that our C-130's (aircraft), USS *Mason* or any aircraft carrier, have zero asset value until we have trained and motivated people to run them."

Collins, a member of the Armed

Services Committee, said she was also impressed and thankful for the hard work of the Reservists as she listened to various personnel describe their jobs. The Sailors also sounded off on recruiting and retention concerns.

Captain Ralph J. Dean, NAR Brunswick's commanding officer, hosted the roundtable discussion and explained his reason for the high-profile visit.

"It is my honor to host these two great leaders and show how Reservists provide continuity to the Navy," Dean said. "I hope we will be able to host more roundtable discussions in the future."

England listed his top priorities as enhanced combat capability, people and improving the quality of service for the men and women on the naval services, technology and improved business practices.

Before departing, England stressed the importance of Reservists.

"People are all created equal, we all have more or less the same time on earth and it's not renewable," England said. "But when people give time to the nation,



Secretary of the Navy Gordon England.
U.S. Navy photo

it's the most precious thing they can give. I sincerely appreciate it."

For more information on NAR Brunswick, go to www.narbrunswick.navy.mil.

NPC Responds to NAVEUR Request for Detailer Visit

By Seaman Journalist Laura Goulding, Center for Career Development Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) — Customer service and satisfaction are the key ingredients in Navy Personnel Command's (NPC) tools to support fleet retention efforts.

While attending a career decision fair at Naval Forces Europe (NAVEUR), NPC representatives learned that officials at Naples, Italy, and Sigonella, Sicily, had requested a detailer visit the large information technology community in the area. When NPC representatives returned from the fair, they made good on their promise.

NPC's distribution department and the Center for Career Development (CCD)

dispatched Senior Chief Information Systems Technician (SW) Eileen Arthur to the Mediterranean area for a weeklong detailing visit.

Arthur met with Italy-based Sailors from Naples, Gaeta, Sigonella and Malta areas, as well as others from USS *La Salle* (AGF 3) and USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39).

"Feedback from the trip was extremely positive," said Arthur. She held discussions with Sailors, including those standing mid-watches to ensure that everyone who wanted to talk to her had the opportunity to do so.

Arthur conducted 124 personal interviews. As a result, eight Sailors

decided to reenlist and three Sailors opted for GUARD 2000.

The GUARD 2000 program allows Prescribed Sea Tour (PST) waivers of up to 18 months for first-term Sailors on a case-by-case basis and gives detailers greater flexibility in assigning Sailors to lower priority billets.

According to Arthur, the most important steps in retaining these Sailors are listening to them and giving them all their options. She believes that personal communication with Sailors is what matters most.

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CNO Addresses Naval Submarine League Symposium

By Chief Journalist Walter T. Ham IV, CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Since the U.S. Navy purchased its first submarine in 1900, a legacy of leadership has given the “silent service” the last word in the 20th Century, according to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark.

“The clarity of vision and the quality of your leadership — Under these two things, your community has surely prospered,” the CNO recently told the Naval Submarine League during his address at their annual symposium. “It is very clear that the demand for your product is high.”

Clark thanked the Naval Submarine League for recognizing many current submariners with awards. The symposium awardees were: Cmdr. Barry Bruner, Cmdr. John Elnitsky II, Lt. Cmdr. Paul Whitescarver, Lt. Cmdr. Thomas Gabehart, Lt. Cmdr. Teryl Chauncey, Master Chief Missile Technician (SS) Jeffery Hudson, Master Chief Electronics

Technician (SS) Gregory Fischer, Chief Machinist’s Mate (SS) Norman Ford, Electronics Technician 1st Class (SS) Marvin Keen and Dr. John Sirmalis.

“I think it’s wonderful that this organization is making it part of what they are about not only to recognize and say thank you, but also to spotlight individuals who are truly excelling in your profession and in your community,” said Clark.

The CNO personally singled out Bruner, former commanding officer of USS *Florida* (SSBN 728) (Gold). Clark praised Bruner for leading his crew to the “best retention of any unit in the United States Navy.” Manpower is the CNO’s number one priority, followed by current readiness, future readiness, quality of service and alignment.

From America’s first submariners to the “Father of the nuclear Navy” Adm. Hyman Rickover to the awardees in the audience (among which sat Rickover’s

wife), the CNO said the submarine community’s success can be traced back through its leaders.

“The thing that is so rich about our institution is that we are the products of years and years of people, who decided that they were going to invest in us and in one another,” the CNO added. “Be thankful for the heritage that was created for you and be about setting the heritage for those of you who are going to follow.”

In 2000, the U.S. Navy submarine community celebrated 100 years of success. The CNO said the Naval Submarine League’s “Second Hundred Years” theme was fitting for the challenges the Navy and the submarine community will face in the next century.

“I love the optimism of it,” the CNO noted. “It says that you know you’ve been successful and you intend to continue to be successful.”

Super Hornets Ready to Soar

By Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

NAS LEMOORE, Calif. (NNS) — The first F/A-18E Super Hornet squadron, Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 115 at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif., was recently declared “safe for flight certification.”

This certification followed a series of inspections and review of programs designed to satisfy Navy requirements for the aircraft.

The squadron, nicknamed the “Eagles,” is set to train independently in preparation for its first deployment of Super Hornets with the USS *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) Battle Group and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 14 next summer.

Prior to certification, VFA-115 trained jointly with VFA-122, the Super Hornet fleet replacement squadron at NAS Lemoore, to prepare pilots and maintenance crews for the arrival of the Navy’s new Super Hornet aircraft.

As new jets were received by the Navy, individual training was conducted on an “asset available” basis. Now, with an

inventory of six aircraft, a full compliment of pilots and a complete administrative structure, the squadron is capable of operating autonomously.

During a recent Super Hornet acceptance flight, Lt. Cmdr. Greg Harris and Lt. Cmdr. Matt Tysler flew a qualifying mission to demonstrate the capabilities of the aircraft.

“The first flight was the culmination of hard work by the Eagles, VFA-122, the fleet introduction team and the entire Super Hornet industry team,” said Harris. “It was a real thrill to be able to fly the first fleet Super Hornet flight, and we are looking forward to many more.”

Harris added, “This is a great milestone for VFA-115 and the Super Hornet team and we should all be proud to be taking the next step.”

The Super Hornet is a multi-mission aircraft that can be employed as a fighter, a bomber or a tanker.

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“Sailors want to know their leaders care about their needs,” Arthur said. “They came away saying, ‘It’s good to put a name with the face and to see that I’m a human being behind the phone.’”

Arthur feels that everyone benefits from trips like this. She said that detailers look forward to working one on one with Sailors and their spouses in a personalized setting, and that Sailors enjoy making eye contact with them when communicating their career development needs and assignment options.

“Sailors want that face-to-face contact with their detailers. You can’t replace that one-on-one interaction,” Arthur said.

For more information about detailer visits and NPC Career Decision Fairs, contact CCD Public Affairs at (901) 874-2200, DSN 882 or log on to www.staynavy.navy.mil.

USS *Iwo Jima* (LHD 7) Commissioned

By Ensign Mike Billips, NAS Pensacola Public Affairs

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — The Navy's newest amphibious assault ship, USS *Iwo Jima* (LHD 7), officially joined the fleet following a June 30 commissioning at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. The ceremony honored veterans of the World War II battle for which the ship is named, while demonstrating the 21st Century Navy's ability to project power ashore.

"This ship is the right ship at the right time in the right place," said Gen. Michael J. Williams, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. "She's going to sail with a main battery of almost 2,000 Marines. Their presence in friendly waters will reassure our allies. And in unfriendly waters they can ensure that the United States has the means to meet its goals anywhere in the world."

Williams was the keynote speaker at a ceremony witnessed by more than 10,000 people. The crowd included friends and family of the crew, local residents and several hundred veterans of the World War II battle of Iwo Jima. Rain showers and lightning had no effect, as nearly all the audience stayed to tour the ship after it officially joined the fleet.

The ship's crew of 989 men and women manned the rails at the command from sponsor Zandra M. Krulak, wife of former Marine commandant Gen. Charles Krulak. Whistles blew, alarms sounded and Marine Corps helicopters flew by, accompanied by fireworks.

Iwo Jima is the seventh of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ships. Second only to aircraft carriers in size, LHDs carry, command and support a Marine Expeditionary Unit of 2,000 Marines.

"*Iwo Jima* is by far the most advanced big-deck amphibian in existence," said Capt. John T. Nawrocki, the ship's commanding officer.

At 40,500 tons, the new *Iwo Jima* is larger than the aircraft carriers that supported the World War II battle. It has a large flight deck for helicopters, AV-8B Harrier jump jets and the new MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor transport aircraft. The ship also has a large floodable well deck to carry and deploy three air-cushion landing craft (LCACs).

The ship's Command, Control,



USS *Iwo Jima* (LHD 7)

U.S. Navy photo

Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) system equip it to serve as the flagship of an amphibious readiness group. It also features a 600-bed hospital aboard, complete with surgical facilities.

While the ship represents the state of the art in "brown-water" warfare, current plans call for it to be the last Navy ship built with a conventional steam propulsion plant. In the future, only nuclear-powered ships will use boilers and steam turbines to drive their propellers. Other new ships will use

gas turbines or diesel engines.

Iwo Jima is the second U.S. Navy amphibious warfare ship to be named after the Pacific island battle, in which more than 6,000 U.S. Marines and an estimated 20,000 Japanese soldiers died. The first *Iwo Jima* (LPH 2) was the lead ship in a class of helicopter carriers built in the 1960s. It was decommissioned in 1993.

More information about Wasp-class amphibious assault ships can be found at www.navy.mil under "Fact File."

Reserve Force Manpower Summits Draw Great Reviews

By Chief Journalist Cleve Hardman, Naval Reserve Force Public Affairs

DALLAS (NNS) — During four weekends in late spring and early summer, more than 4,500 Reservists attended a series of "manpower summits" to understand more about the direction of Reserve forces.

Vice Adm. John B. Totushek, commander, Naval Reserve Force, called these summits as an opportunity to communicate first-hand with officer and enlisted leadership of the entire Reserve community.

Those attending expressed great appreciation at the opportunity to hear first-hand the policies designed to move the Naval Reserve Force forward.

"I'm getting more out of this forum than any other session I have attended,"

said Lt. Rodney A. Chapman, commanding officer, Navy Marine Corps Reserve Center, South Bend, Ind. "This forum helps us get past the 'this is the way it is done' mentality and develop an opportunity to share experiences and develop the policies and procedures to continue moving the Reserve Force forward."

Direct communication from Reserve leadership to the Reserve Force was a primary benefit of the summits, but the opportunity to exchange ideas was also a valuable outcome.

"Here you have the opportunity to exchange ideas across various regions,"

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Coast Guard, Thais Share Mission, Methods

By Journalist 1st Class Joseph Krypel, 7th Fleet Public Affairs

SATTAHIP, Thailand (NNS) — Members of the U.S. Coast Guard worked side by side with Thai sailors and marines here, exchanging defensive tactics and law enforcement techniques.

A three-man U.S. Coast Guard team embarked on USS *Wadsworth* (FFG 9) led a maritime law enforcement symposium as part of the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise, which takes place in Thailand each summer.

CARAT is the Navy's premier bilateral exercise in the Western Pacific. It is designed to enhance regional cooperation, increase interoperability and build lasting military-to-military and personal relationships.

"We're here as much to learn as we are to teach," says Coast Guard Chief Boatswain's Mate (BMC) Jeff Stone, who serves with Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement South in Miami, Fla. "We exchange ideas and philosophies, and we each get as much out of it as we can."

In the workshop with their Thai counterparts, the Coast Guard shared techniques on the detention stage of shipboard search and seizure. This is important because ships transport roughly 90 percent of the world's freight, almost half of which passes through Asian waters.

A group of 15 Thai sailors and marines watched the methods used by the Coast Guard to handcuff suspects.

This exchange proved useful to boarding parties in the Royal Thai Navy due to the continued threat of piracy in Southeast Asia. Pirates reportedly have long preyed on Thai and foreign ships in the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea.

"This has the potential of being the most dangerous stage of any boarding or acquisition," says Coast Guard BMC Tim Murphy of Metairie, La. "You come into immediate contact with a suspect and need to ensure that the

lives of yourself and your partner stay secure."

Some Thai participants said they learned a lot because their boarding parties do not use handcuffs. Instead, rope or tie-wraps are the most common forms of detention used by the Thai military.

Murphy and Stone demonstrated the technique of handcuffing using two different methods — the standing position and the kneeling position.

Murphy and Stone first demonstrated the two techniques on each other. Then they cuffed a Thai sailor volunteer as part of the demonstration.

"This is a very visual class," said Stone. "The language barrier is narrowed, but the basics of law enforcement exist everywhere in the world and with everyone that comes into contact with the bad guys."

The Americans normally start at a much-lessened state of aggression and

escalate their efforts as a situation calls for it.

Later, Stone and Murphy turned students when Thai Marines demonstrated their techniques of disarming and detaining potential subjects.

At the end of the training, Stone and Murphy walked away with an appreciation for their counterparts in Southeast Asia charged with ship boarding and criminal capture on the high seas.

"These guys are absolutely amazing," said Murphy. "There is definitely some martial arts training in their backgrounds, and they can disarm you as quick as I've ever seen."

Both countries practiced what they'd learned in the symposiums when they conducted mock boardings and detention on a Thai fishing vessel during the exercise.

For more information on the exercise, go to www.c7f.navy.mil.



Captain Gary Erickson, commander, Destroyer Squadron One, gives an interview in front of USS *Wadsworth* (FFG 9) and RSN *Persistence* (LST 209) after the opening ceremonies of the seventh annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2001 exercise. CARAT, a series of bilateral exercises, takes place throughout the Western Pacific each summer. Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Erin A. Zocco

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Chapman said. "You get quite a few ideas that have great success."

In addition to providing the opportunity to directly address questions to Reserve leadership, the summits were designed to communicate information regarding force shaping, retention, training and recruiting. It was clear these issues have become a top priority.

"One important factor in the summits is that retention has become a priority," said Chief Mess Management Specialist Patricia B. Crosson, of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. "We must keep the mission going forward. To hear the issues and policies firsthand really stresses the importance to each of us."

Chief Navy Counselor Duncan Graham, Naval Reserve Force retention officer, said he thinks the summits achieved their desired success.

"It was an important evolution as we strive to communicate our strategies in force shaping and retention," Graham said. "Force shaping and retention sometimes are opposing forces. These summits allowed us to present what it is we have to do on these important issues. The summits provided a forum that allowed us to communicate across all the various communities offering what we needed them to hear."

For those attending, one message was clear.

"This summit shows that the leadership of the Naval Reserve Force is committed," Chapman said. "This is a true focus on people and to understand the commitment of our leadership."

Initiatives being developed and issues addressed at the summit are being compiled and will be offered on the Naval Reserve Force Web site. To review the material, go to www.navres.navy.mil/navresfor/n1/index.html for more information. Questions addressed at the forum and those taken for staffing will be posted on the Web site.

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The new jet has a tactical mission spectrum that spans from long range, sea-based air dominance to deep-strike interdiction.

The Super Hornet is designed to greatly exceed the capabilities of current naval aviation assets and is expected to replace the F-14 Tomcat in future program years.

The new jet is designed to carry every tactical air-to-air and air-to-ground weapon in the Navy's inventory, and is equipped with an enhanced radar system, as well as advanced on-board sensor fusion capability.

The Super Hornet is the Navy's premier strike-fighter aircraft and is designed to lead naval aviation in the 21st Century.

For more information about the Super Hornet, go to www.chinfo.navy.mil/navpalib/aircraft/fa18, scroll down and select "shornet.html."

For more information about VFA-115, go to www.lemoore.navy.mil/vfa-115.

This Week on Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- This week our show comes to you from Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Ill., home of the Navy's boot camp;
- Meet a team of Recruit Division commanders who make sure recruits learn what it takes to be Sailors;
- Take a look at the beginnings of the training center and its 90th anniversary celebration;
- Go behind the scenes during rifle qualifications in Quantico, Va., to see why Marines like life in the pits.

Compiled on tape #2001-28, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

This Week in Naval History:

- July 9, 1944: Organized Japanese resistance ceases on the island of Saipan. The battle would be over by July 12. Possession of Saipan places the home islands of Japan within range of land-based B-29 bombers.

- July 10, 1934: USS *Houston* (CA 30) takes President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the first visit of a U.S. president to South America.

- July 11, 1798: President John Adams approves an act of Congress that authorizes the Marine Corps. A day later, Adams appointed lawyer William Ward Burrows as major commandant.

- July 12, 1916: The battleship USS *North Carolina* becomes the first ship in the Navy to operate aircraft. An AB-3 flying boat was catapulted from the vessel while underway in Pensacola Bay, off the coast of Florida. The test calibrated the first catapult designed for shipboard use.

- July 13, 1863: The screw sloop *Wyoming* attacks Japanese warlord Price Nagata's forces in the Shimonoseki strait between the islands of Kyushu and Honshu. The strike was in retribution for an attack a month earlier against the steamer *Pembroke*, which was fired on as it passed through the strait. *Wyoming* was outgunned but still managed to sink all three of the warlord's warships and even shelled the forts ashore.

- July 14, 1853: Commodore Matthew Perry meets with the joint governors of Uraga, Japan, to establish relations with the country. Japan had traditionally shunned contact with the outside world. This attempt was unsuccessful, but Perry would later secure a treaty with Japan on a return trip in March 1854.

- July 15, 1870: An act of Congress establishes the Pay Corps, which in 1919 would become the Supply Corps.

Visit the Naval Historical Center Web site at www.history.navy.mil for more information about naval history.

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